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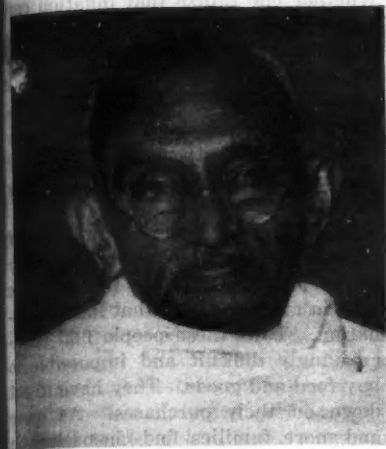
# The American Observer

*A free, virtuous, and enlightened people must know well the great principles and causes on which their happiness depends.—James Monroe*

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THREE INDIAN LEADERS. From left to right: Mahatma Gandhi, the Hindu "saint"; Pandit Nehru, who ranks second to Gandhi as Hindu leader; Mohammed Ali Jinnah, bitter opponent of the Hindus and dynamic head of the Moslem League.

## Grave Developments in India

**British Face Intensified Demands of Native Leaders for Independence  
Plus Grim Prospect that Famine Will Take Heavy Toll of Indian Lives**

THIS month and next, voters in the 11 British provinces of India are electing new legislatures for the first time in 8 years. India, England, and the world are watching the voting closely, for the outcome of these elections may decide the future destiny of India and the British Empire.

When all the ballots are in, the stage will be set for a showdown on the old issues which have for so many years kept the leaders of the 400 million Indian people at odds with the British and divided among themselves. During the war, Britain was able to keep the Indian situation from exploding even though she could not reach an understanding with the Indians. Pleading that the war must come first, she answered Indian demands for independence by promising to settle the matter after victory. When leaders of the independence movement refused to cooperate in the war effort on this basis, she put them in prison and ran the country without their aid.

But now the showdown can no longer be postponed. India's two biggest groups, the Congress Party and the Moslem League, both insist that unless Britain comes to terms with them immediately, they will take drastic action.

The Congress Party, largest of India's political groups, wants complete freedom from British rule. It draws its main support from among the 255 million Hindus. Its leaders made their position clear just before the elections got under way, and they are still standing by the manifesto they issued then. They said that if the election returns show them to have solid backing among the people, they will renew their demands for independence. Then, if the British refuse to leave India, they will take steps to force them out.

The Moslem League, which is the main political organization of the 95 million Moslems, wants the British to quit India just as the Congress Party

does. But it wants Indian independence on its own terms. Fearing that the Moslems would be overshadowed and oppressed by the more numerous Hindus in an all-Indian government, the League asks a separate nation for India's Moslems. Such a nation would include the six northern provinces of India.

Like the Congress Party, the Moslem League is waiting to see what the election returns will show about its strength. If it wins majorities in the Moslem provinces, it will once more press for "Pakistan," or an independent Moslem state.

Neither of these two parties can be said to represent most of the Hindus or Moslems, for the great majority of Indian people are illiterate and have little or no interest in political matters. Of the two groups the Congress Party is by far the stronger. Both of them, however, are influential enough to bring about a large-scale upheaval in India. Already riots and disturbances are taking place throughout the country. The British are deeply worried over this political unrest, which is being intensified by an acute food shortage in that country.

(Concluded on page 6)



W. E. Myer

## The Road to Mastery

By Walter E. Myer

SHORTLY after the close of the First World War there appeared in Germany an agitator named Adolph Hitler. Without a clearly defined program, without knowing exactly what he wanted to accomplish, he led a revolutionary movement, was defeated and thrown into jail. There, shut off from the outside world, unable to agitate, he turned furiously to thinking and planning, to the writing of *Mein Kampf*. He emerged with a program, a monstrously wicked program, but one which affected most of the earth's inhabitants, and which altered the history of the world.

Eugene V. Debs, a busy U. S. labor leader, was imprisoned in 1919 and, while behind the bars, had time to think out a political and social philosophy which helped to make him the greatest leader of socialism in this country. John Bunyan, while in prison, wrote *Pilgrim's Progress*.

John Milton, freed by blindness from many of the distractions of life, wrote *Paradise Lost*. The deaf Beethoven concentrated upon his great musical compositions. Franklin D. Roosevelt, during a long convalescence from an attack of infantile paralysis, had time to read and think, and to develop the ideas which later found expression in the "New Deal," which, for good or ill, depending upon one's point of view, so greatly influenced American political and economic life.

These men, so unlike in personality and in the nature of their contributions to society, had one thing in common. Each had thrust upon him a serious handicap which was used to his advantage. Each was prevented by circumstances beyond his control, from dissipating his energies. Each was enabled, by what seemed to be a disastrous misfortune, to concentrate upon a program of thought and action in keeping with his interests and his abilities.

I would not wish for any student that he be imprisoned or visited by an affliction. But many of us should concentrate our energies to a greater extent. Most students are beset by a maze of distractions. There are so many things to do, so many interests to satisfy. Variety of interests is good to a point, and narrowness should be avoided, but many people are chained to mediocrity by the inability to shut out trivialities. One who masters his mind by concentrating his attention on pursuits in which he might excel is on his way to success, be it in school, in business, or in politics.

## Can Inflation Be Warded Off?

**New Wage-Price Program Allows a Moderate Increase in Cost of Living**

THE wage-price program which the government put into effect a little more than two weeks ago is being sharply debated in business and labor circles, and by the general public. It is obviously a compromise plan, and President Truman hopes it will lead to an early settlement of the major disputes between employers and workers.

Under this program, the cost of living is expected to rise slightly higher than it already has during the war period. Supporters of the President claim that this will be a small price for the American people to pay in order to restore industrial harmony and speed peacetime production. Critics, on the other hand, fear that this is another step in the direction of dangerous inflation.

The plan provides that wages may be increased to 15 or 20 per cent above what they were when the war closed. Increases above that amount are not to be permitted. This rise in workers' incomes, it is claimed, will enable them and their families to buy as much as they could before the war.

Under certain conditions, employers may increase the prices of their products beyond the limit which is now set by the Office of Price Administration (OPA). They may do this in case the granting of higher wages costs them so much as to bring their profits below what they were during the pre-war years, 1936-1939. If a business or industrial concern can pay increased wages and still make profits as high as it made before the war, it cannot increase prices.

There are several men and agencies in charge of this program. Their names and duties are as follows:

The National Wage Stabilization Board will decide, in each specific case, how much higher wages are needed by

(Concluded on page 2)



LANBERT IN CHICAGO SUN

Hold 'em, Chester!



# Price Control

(Concluded from page 1)

workers in order for them to buy as much as they did before the war when prices were at a lower level. As we have said, no wage increases of more than 20 per cent can be granted, so the Wage Stabilization Board will make its decisions within that range. This agency cannot force employers to pay higher wages, but any employer who does so voluntarily will have a chance to raise his prices high enough so that he can make as good a profit as he made in the 1936-1939 prewar period.

This brings us to the OPA, which is now headed by Paul Porter. It will have the task of deciding whether employers need to increase their prices in order to pay higher wages and still make as good profits as they did before the war.

Under this new setup, Chester Bowles, formerly the OPA chief, is serving as Director of Economic Stabilization. He will advise with Paul Porter on whether or not price increases which are requested should be granted. Actually, his opinions will carry more weight than Mr. Porter's.

Still another link in this rather complicated chain is John Snyder, Director of Reconversion. He will have the same authority as Chester Bowles in helping to decide whether or not price increases shall be granted. If he and Mr. Bowles are in disagreement over any particular case, President Truman will "umpire" their differences.

## How Much Increase?

Such is the program which has been worked out to control wages and prices. There is no question that the price of living will go up somewhat under this plan—how much, we must wait to see. Already steel prices have been increased \$5 a ton, and this means that a great many steel products will cost more. The prices of hundreds of other things are expected to be permitted to advance a little higher than they are now. It is roughly estimated that the American people will probably be paying from 5 to 10 per cent more for their goods within a year.

This may not seem like very much, but when it is added to the advance in the cost of living which has already taken place during the war period, the total rise will be considerable. It will be somewhere between 40 and 50 per cent.

Of course prices could conceivably go much higher than 5 or 10 per cent during the next year. Much may depend on whether or not the Office of Price Administration is continued. As matters now stand, this agency goes out of existence next June 30. Chester Bowles is carrying on a vigorous campaign to have its lifetime extended for another year.

There are several conflicting views over whether or not the government should continue its price-regulation program. Many manufacturers and businessmen feel that all controls should be ended at once. They say that the important thing is to get full peacetime production as rapidly as possible. We need to eliminate the present scarcity of goods, it is argued, so that people won't compete so intensely for products, thus bidding up their prices.

The best way to speed up industrial production, according to this argument, is to give producers a free hand. Don't cramp their style and discourage their expansion efforts by controlling the prices of their goods and imposing other regulations on them. If the attempt is made to continue price control now that the war is over, producers will be very cautious in their business activities. They will not want to produce too much for fear that the prices they are permitted to charge will not bring them sufficient profits.

Such is the point of view of certain businessmen and industrialists. Others, however, favor a continuation of the price-wage program. They feel that they will have less conflict with labor unions if the government uses its influence to set a limit on wage increases. They also feel that their businesses, as well as the whole nation, will suffer if prices are allowed

try were suddenly lifted while many goods are scarce. He gives other illustrations to prove his point.

For instance, when OPA recently tried removing its controls over various items, prices quickly jumped two, three, or even four times above the old levels. Two days after controls were removed, oranges, lemons, and grapefruits were twice as expensive as they had been. Fur prices doubled shortly after OPA ceilings were taken off, and cocoanut prices quadrupled. The increases were so great on most of the items which were experimented with that the OPA had to put them back on the price control list.

Mr. Bowles was even opposed to adopting the new wage-price plan, for he felt that prices had already advanced enough without permitting them to go still higher. He finally compromised, however, in the hopes that

taken hold of the country. The pressure in the boiler is up to the bursting point. The lobbyists and profiteers are licking their chops. Unless the inflation hopes of these lobbyists are smashed soon, the country's economic system will be ruined beyond repair."

This whole question will be hotly debated in Congress and throughout the nation in the weeks ahead. The stakes involved are very high. Whether one thinks that inflation can best be prevented by immediately lifting price controls and giving producers and sellers a free hand, or by maintaining OPA regulations for another year, nearly all informed persons will agree that extreme inflation would be very dangerous to our country. This is why:

Wages and salaries of millions of people can never keep pace with rapidly rising prices. This has proved to be true in every country that has had inflation. Thus these people find it increasingly difficult and impossible to buy food and goods. They have to cut down on their purchases. As more and more families find themselves in this predicament, the nation's businesses begin to feel the ill effects. Their sales drop. They cut production, lay off workers, and this intensifies the situation.

After this process has gone on for a certain length of time, a crash is inevitable. Businesses and industries have to close down, unemployment becomes widespread, and discontent in the nation grows. It is during such times of depression that dangerous ideas and leaders gain their greatest headway. Thus, it is dangerous for the people of a democracy to "toy" with the idea of a "little inflation." This could have almost as disastrous effects as playing with an atomic bomb.

## Postwar Olympics Planned for 1948

Great Britain is making plans for the first postwar Olympic Games, which are scheduled to be held in London in 1948. Invitations to compete will be sent out to the athletes of all countries except Germany and Japan.

The last Olympic Games were held in Berlin in 1936, and from then on were called off because of the war.

Olympic Games first started in ancient Greece. Winning an olive wreath in an Olympic contest was the highest honor Greece offered to her young men. Games were held every fourth year and attracted contestants from all the cities of that land. Later the games were forgotten, and it was not until 1894 that a Frenchman brought up the idea again. He figured that if all the countries of the world got together for games every four years it would make them understand one another better.

The first modern Olympic Games were held in Greece in 1896. Except during periods of war, they have been held every four years since then.

Along with track and field events, Olympic Games include contests in swimming, boxing, wrestling, fencing, rowing, cycling, yachting, shooting, weight lifting, gymnastics, horseback riding, field hockey, canoeing, and other sports. The Winter Olympics, which are usually held apart from the regular games, include ski jumping, ice hockey, and bobsledding. Switzerland has already asked for the 1948 Winter Olympics.



Danger on the home front

FITZPATRICK IN ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH

to get out of hand in runaway inflation.

Chester Bowles feels more deeply on this subject than any other government official. He thinks it is putting it mildly to say that the nation will suffer if it is overtaken by inflation. He contends that such a development would be a disaster, that it might wreck our entire economic system.

In reply to those who argue that prices would not advance very much even if government controls were lifted, Mr. Bowles gives strong evidence to the contrary. He calls attention to a "hoax" auction which the OPA conducted in Jackson, Tennessee, late last year.

The bidders at the auction thought that it was a real one. One man was willing to pay \$36 for 100 pounds of sugar—six times the normal market price. Fifteen dollars were bid for 50 pounds of lard, \$25 and \$30 for two automobile tires, and \$2,500 for a 1946-model Ford.

This hoax auction, according to Mr. Bowles, indicates clearly what would happen if price controls in this coun-

try were suddenly lifted while many goods are scarce. He gives other illustrations to prove his point. But he has made it clear that he will fight to the last ditch to prevent unnecessary price increases and to keep the OPA alive another year.

It is certain that Mr. Bowles will meet with powerful opposition. His opponents are planning to exert every possible pressure on Congress and the nation to defeat any extension of the OPA. Mr. Bowles, a few days ago, spoke very bitterly against the groups that are opposing him. He contends that they are mostly selfish business and industrial interests which stand to gain at the nation's expense by winning the right to charge higher prices for their products. He said:

"Clearly, this program (to keep prices down) will be attacked by every irresponsible pressure group in the land, such as the group that demanded the removal of all price controls at the very height of this inflationary crisis... A speculative fever has



# Weekly Digest of Fact and Opinion

(The opinions quoted or summarized on this page are not necessarily endorsed by the AMERICAN OBSERVER.)

## "Wanted! A Modern Postal Service," by Harry T. Brundidge, *Cosmopolitan*, February

The U. S. Post Office Department is the biggest business in the world. It has an annual money turnover of 16 billion dollars and operates the sixth largest bank in the world—postal savings. The postal system carries 50 million dollars worth of government mail free and makes up the cost from other mail. Americans are more likely to turn to the postal system for advice and help than to any other government agency.

The system, however, is out of date, according to its boss, Postmaster General Robert E. Hannegan. Four out of five trucks are more than 13 years old. New automatic stamp-selling machines are needed as well as modern office equipment. The services offered to the public could be greatly improved. Hundreds of warplanes could be converted to carry air mail at reduced rates.

The post office has a new program to make its services better. It calls for a system which will give the people better service, faster. The services will be more convenient. The department also wants to acquaint the public, through advertising, with the many services offered by their post offices. It also wants to teach people how to use these services in order to get the most out of them. Soon it will ask Congress to consider this new program.

## "When the Spider Walks," an Editorial in *The New York Times*, February 17

The modern world is a very small world, bound together by the strands of fast transportation. Specialization has made nations, groups, and individuals increasingly dependent on each other for food, goods, and services.

"A great city, a nation, the whole world is like a web that shakes in every thread when a fly lights or the spider takes a walk." Less than 4,000 tugboat men can paralyze a great city like New York. When a few hundred thousand men strike in the American motor industry, the whole world is affected. When the wheat crop fails in Russia, or war breaks out in Asia, the world suffers accordingly. "Small minorities, operating communications systems, food plants, fuel systems, even elevators, can injure millions upon millions of their countrymen,

simply by staying home or by picketing.

"No nation can live to itself alone, nor any group within a nation." The actions of nations, men, unions, and employers affect everybody. "Whether we wish it or not we are all members of one body. The United Nations did not create this fact—it merely recognized it."

"And so rises the great task and problem of our generation. How are individuals, groups, and nations to meet their responsibilities to each other and still remain free?" If necessary, how can they be forced to do what is best for society? No one yet knows the answer. But it is plain that "there must be a growth of the cooperative spirit among mankind or there will be a disastrous shrinkage of liberty."

## "A Proposal for Industrial Peace," by Kurt Solmssen, *Harper's*, February

The fruits of all production go to money (capital), workers, and managers, because they make production possible. These three must work together for industrial peace if reconversion is to succeed.

To secure this cooperation, it is necessary to know how much of the profits should be distributed to capital (the stockholders). This can be done by determining how much was given in a typical period—say 1939-1943. Suppose that it was \$1,000,000 for a particular plant.

Now suppose that workers are taking a pay cut of 30 per cent because they work shorter hours since the war is over. Then the return to capital should take a 30 per cent cut—in our illustration, \$300,000. This amount should be shared with labor, thus raising their wages.

Big industrial managers, receiving the big salaries, should be required to take a pay cut equal to that taken by capital and labor. Then workers would feel that capital and managers are working with labor, and not against it.

## "Brotherhood, 1946," an Editorial in *The New York Times*, February 17

This is a good year to work for tolerance and brotherhood. Our defeated enemies tried to conquer the world, partially by appealing to prejudice and race hatred.

In America, too, there are people who have prejudices. Some dislike Jews; others believe Negroes are a menace; some are against the Catholics; others stir up feeling against



The Nazis handed out medals to those Germans who did an effective job in stirring up racial and religious intolerance. The *New York Times* (see editorial on this page) points out that certain people in this country are continuing this Nazi campaign of hate.

Protestants; and others dislike aliens.

For 13 years the Conference of Christians and Jews has worked to sponsor brotherhood in America. President Truman has asked Americans to cooperate in this work. He says that "the good world of the future must be built on the foundation of recognition of the dignity and rights of each individual whatever his race, creed, or national background."

## "How Dangerous Is the Public Debt?" by Leo Barnes, *The Atlantic*, February

When many people think of America's 300 billion dollar public debt, they think of our country as being that much poorer. "Actually, the public debt is no more a sign of public poverty than war bond certificates are tokens of public wealth." American people, themselves, own the bonds of the public debt. When the six billion dollar interest is paid every year on that debt it goes back to 85 million Americans who own these bonds.

The time may come when the government will always expect to have a large public debt. Many people want it because they feel it is a safe place to invest their money. Other people, however, believe that the government should pay off its debt and avoid the payment of interest.

## "Is the East Unfair to the West and South?" Poll of Experts conducted by Arthur Kornhauser, *The American Magazine*, March

Nine out of ten business experts agreed recently that the east has an unfair industrial advantage over the west and south, when Arthur Kornhauser asked their opinion on this problem. The east maintains this unfair business advantage over other regions in a number of ways.

One is to see that the government-controlled freight rates make shipping from eastern factories cheaper than from other factories. The government is beginning to correct this situation. Bankers with large investments in eastern firms frequently will not lend money to begin enterprises in other areas. Eastern industries control patents and have monopolistic policies which strangle businesses starting elsewhere.

The experts agree that the national

welfare requires that the western and southern regions become more industrially developed. Here are some of their suggestions for doing this:

The government should have a national plan for developing all our areas. It should include such projects as the TVA. The government should have education and health projects for less developed areas. Young people should be encouraged to stay in the south and west.

Southern and western areas should survey their resources and advantages. They should search for suitable industries to introduce to their regions. Local money should be pooled to develop new industries. Eastern monopolies should be prosecuted by the national government, and freight rates should be completely overhauled.

## "Our New Lost Generation," by Edith M. Stern, *Woman's Home Companion*, March

Now that the war is over, thousands of teen-age people have been dropped from industries' payrolls. Many want to continue to work, but it is difficult to find jobs. A survey of this problem in Detroit indicates that hundreds do not want to return to school. There is little for them to do, except to loaf.

These young people grew up during the war when it was easy to get a job. They do not realize yet that the time is here when employers want educated workers. They remember the schools as being uninteresting. These young people need help to adjust themselves to the postwar world.

Education must be more meaningful and interesting. "It must tie up directly with life, both the part of life that is concerned with money-making and the part that includes family relations, social understanding, and comprehension of the natural and man-made world all around."

Parents must emphasize enduring values to replace the money-is-everything point of view which young people developed during the war. They must stress the long-range value of education. Young people must be given spiritual values which will help them work for the Good Life.

"Teen-agers who have been cast out by industry are adrift like shipwrecked seamen on a raft." They need understanding, guidance, and help.



U. S. POST OFFICE DEPT.

A fleet of these buses will soon be in operation to collect and distribute mail in areas where there are no trains



# The Story of the Week

## Bombs and Spies

The atomic bomb has been a major international problem since it was first used seven months ago. Recently it served to cause international misunderstanding when Canadian officials charged that information concerning atomic energy had been "stolen" by Russian agents. Russia replied that Canada had acted in an unfriendly manner by making these spy charges publicly, without first consulting her. Both nations say that the amount of secret information involved is small, and our own officials claim that none of it concerns the atomic bomb secret itself.

During the widespread discussion which has centered around this matter of spying, some people have argued that Russia should be severely criticized for stealing information. These critics say that this case proves that Russia would stoop to any kind of conduct to attain her ends. It shows, they say, that Russia is not to be trusted on any matter.

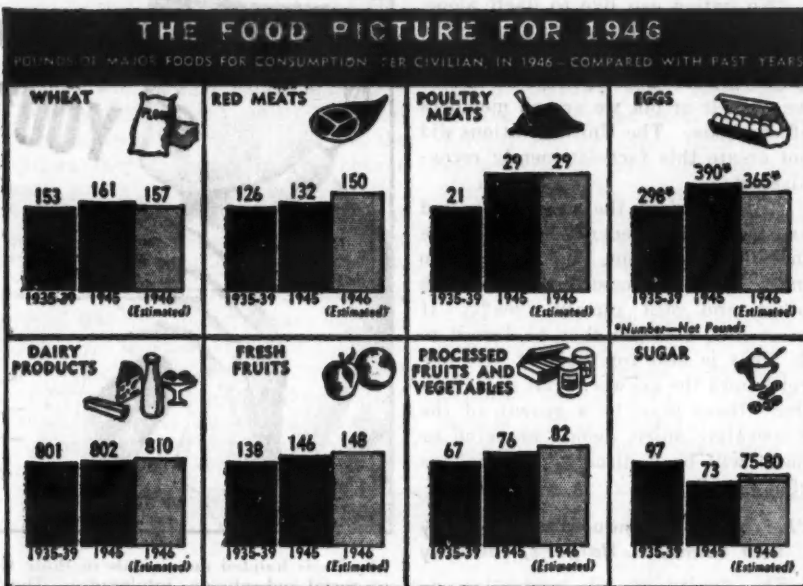
Other people point out, however, that Russia has only been doing what every other nation does constantly. All major nations maintain spies and secret intelligence agencies to secure all the information they can about the military strength of possible rivals.

Our own government has been sharply attacked by many critics in recent years because our own espionage work has not been as effective as that of other nations. We are now setting up a new and more effective "intelligence" agency which will be trying to do the same type of thing for which many people are now criticizing the Russians.

## Freedom of the Air

For several years there has been a sharp international controversy about postwar aviation. One group of nations, led by England, has favored dividing up the world's air business on a planned basis. Another group, led by the United States, has wanted free competition and few restrictions.

As a result of this difference of opinion, international flights have been limited, and dreams of 40-hour trips by plane to the four corners of the globe could not be realized. At



an air conference in Bermuda recently, however, British and American representatives came together and ironed out their differences.

In the future, planes of the two nations will be free to fly where they wish and as often as they wish. Only one major restriction remains—all international airplanes must charge fares agreed upon in advance.

The pact made at Bermuda sets the pattern for freedom of the air, and will probably be followed when we make agreements with other nations. Sweden, France, and Holland have been waiting to see the results of the discussions between the U. S. and Britain before coming to terms with us.

Russia, however, is not expected to take part in international air discussions. That country has not shown any desire to send her planes to other countries, nor has she wanted other planes to cross her territory. But even without Russia there is a vast field which has now been opened for the development of international aviation.

## Winter Favorite

Is ice hockey a sport or a form of warfare? Don't try to answer this question by going to see an ice-hockey game, because the chances are you

won't be able to tell the difference. The flashing skates and whirling sticks of "the fastest game in the world" make the Charge of the Light Brigade look like Ring Around the Rosie.

At any rate, ice hockey is becoming basketball's rival as America's favorite winter sport. Of course, basketball still draws much larger crowds, but that is because there are far more gyms in the country than rinks. And the way ice-hockey fans are following the sport in our larger cities, it may soon be profitable for ice-hockey rinks to become as numerous as bowling alleys. Bowling, incidentally, is our No. 1 winter sport where actual playing by the public is concerned.

The first ice-hockey game in the United States was played 60 years ago by a group of boys at St. Paul's School in New Hampshire. St. Paul's graduates took the sport to Harvard, Yale, and Princeton, and some of them even introduced it to Europe. In Canada, however, hockey has been the standard winter sport for almost 75 years.

Strangely enough, ice-hockey injuries are seldom fatal or even crippling. This season the game has become more rowdy than ever before, with plenty of sprains, broken bones, and bashed heads, but there have been no fatalities. Maybe this is because professional ice-hockey stars are usually in excellent physical shape. They can dish it out, but they can take it, too.

## Bomb Antarctic?

What would happen if atomic bombs were dropped on the 1,800-foot-thick icecap covering the Antarctic area? Captain Eddie Rickenbacker, famous war ace, suggests that the ice might crack open, giving us access to the rich deposits of copper, iron, gold, and coal which are believed to be hidden there.

Some scientists believe that the ice could be blasted away entirely and that it would be unlikely to return. Others, however, predict that there would be disastrous results from such action. They say that if all the south polar ice were to melt into the ocean, the world's sea level would rise from 50 to 100 feet, flooding every seaport in the world.

They say also that climatic zones

would shift because the present climate of the world is partially determined by the cold winds which blow from the polar icecaps. Temperate regions might become semi-tropical and cold regions might become temperate. The world, moreover, would rock with violent earthquakes as the ten quadrillion tons of ice slid away from the Antarctic area.

## India's Leaders

In the continuing struggle for independence from British rule, three leaders stand out in India: Gandhi, Nehru, and Jinnah. The first and still most important of these, Mahatma K. Gandhi has been called the "Father of modern India." Originally coming from a well-to-do family, Gandhi, now 76 years old, has devoted much of his life to living in a village among the lowest class in India, the people known as "untouchables."

In his unending struggle to gain independence for the Indians, he started a passive resistance movement. This is simply a refusal to obey British laws. It brought both trouble and recognition to Gandhi, and he was imprisoned many times. But the independence movement gained popularity whenever he was in jail, and the Mahatma (meaning "Great Soul") was always released.

Gandhi is leader of the Indian National Congress, a political organization which is intent on freeing India



Tallest and smallest dogs in recent exhibition at Madison Square Garden in New York City. The big fellow is an Irish Wolf Hound, and if you look closely, you will see the Toy Poodle.

from British rule. His plans for a free India draw constantly on the past. In his view, India should remain an agricultural land, retaining all its old methods and folk handicrafts. He prefers the spinning wheel to modern industries.

Chief opponent of this idea is Gandhi's former disciple, Pandit Nehru. Born 56 years ago, Nehru is also descended from a high family. He was educated in England where he graduated from Cambridge and studied law. Three times elected to the presidency of the Congress party, Nehru believes in bringing western progress to India. When his country shakes off British rule, Nehru would like to see property shared more evenly among the population. He would also like to see India develop its industry along modern lines and take



A scene from the movie, *Devotion*

WARNER BROTHERS



its place among the great nations of the world.

The man who claims to speak for 95 million Moslems in India is Mohammed Ali Jinnah, permanent leader of the Moslem League. Jinnah is 69 years old. He is a brilliant speaker and an aristocrat who despises the lower classes. In fighting for independence he insists that a separate

Ida Lupino. Another famous author of the period, William Thackeray, is played by Sidney Greenstreet, who has always played the role of a villain in previous pictures. Dame May Whitty and Paul Henreid help complete the excellent cast of this movie.

### Election in Belgium

With the election over in Belgium, the question of King Leopold's return to the throne is reopened once again. The Social Christian Party which won victories in the election has long been in favor of the King. During the coming months this party, led by Auguste de Schrijver, may try to bring Leopold back to the throne.

Nevertheless, de Schrijver's party has not won a clear-cut victory. In the Senate it has a majority. But in the Chamber of Deputies (corresponding to our House of Representatives) the groups which are opposed to King Leopold have managed to hold the lead. Thus, these groups which have stood in opposition to the throne and have favored extensive social and economic reforms are in a position to vote down any attempts to bring Leopold back.

Last week Mr. de Schrijver was attempting to form a cabinet from among the various parties—an extremely difficult task. The reason for the difficulty is, of course, that his party does not have a complete majority and he needs support from the other groups in order to pass legislation. If he is unsuccessful, it may be necessary to hold new elections in Belgium.

### What Do Germans Think?

Recently at the town of Duesseldorf, Germany, a German team beat a British team in a soccer game. A German spectator said to a British soldier, "You do not know how important this is. For the first time we have beaten you at your national game."

"That's all right," said the British soldier, "we have already beaten you at yours."

The German thought this was a joke. But is it? Is war the German national game?

More than 3,000 students, most of them former German soldiers, attend Erlangen University in Germany.



Viscount Archibald Wavell, British Viceroy of India

American observers report that these German veterans still have no ideas of world brotherhood. They talk only of a greater Germany, led by a soldiers' political party. They may have forgotten Hitler, but they still admire the aggressions of Bismarck and Frederick the Great. They regret Germany's mistake, but they do not say she was wrong in trying to dominate Europe.

When Pastor Martin Niemöller made a speech at Erlangen recently, trying to explain why all Germans were guilty of waging the war, the students scuffed their feet on the floor until his voice could not be heard. Most German prisoners of war keep a stony faced silence when they are asked about Nazism or democracy.

The strangest part of the situation is the helpless position of the United States and other victors. When an enemy is dug in along a war front, it is quite possible for a stronger nation to blast him into defeat. But when the enemy surrenders his military arms and then digs in again among old ambitions and prejudices, how can we pull him out? This is a problem which the present generation must solve if we are to have lasting peace.

### Britain's Wavell

Very soon a commission of three British Cabinet members will leave London on a mission to India. These three men will join with Viscount Wavell, Viceroy of India, in laying plans for settling India's problems.



This new plastic lung is much lighter than the old iron type, and is a great boon to infantile paralysis victims.

Moslem nation is necessary because the more numerous Hindus would very probably mistreat the Moslems.

### Mathematics Made Easy

Problems which have been too hard and long even for the experts can now be solved quickly and easily on Eniac, a new electronic machine. Known formally as the "electronic numerical integrator and calculator," Eniac takes a mathematical problem which has been punched on cards and solves it through use of 18,000 electronic tubes, many miles of wire, and numerous complicated control instruments. The answer comes out printed on a piece of paper.

This super calculator was developed to solve problems in aiming bombs and firing guns during the war. In peace it will help develop better engines, aid in weather forecasting, improve atomic research, and advance all branches of engineering.

Eniac can only add, subtract, multiply, and divide. By combining these processes, however, it is able to work out the most difficult mathematical problems. Speed is its greatest advantage. For example, it solved in two hours a problem which would have kept 100 trained men busy a whole year. Of course, Eniac does only the calculations. Trained mathematicians must "set up" the problem on punched cards and arrange the wired panels to do the work.

### The Bronte Sisters

*Devotion*, a new Warner Brothers' movie, is the story of Charlotte and Emily Bronte, two English country girls who became famous as the authors of *Jane Eyre* and *Wuthering Heights*. In addition to being an entertaining film, *Devotion* is of particular interest as a picture of mid-nineteenth-century England.

The roles of Charlotte and Emily are played by Olivia de Havilland and



Ice hockey is becoming an increasingly popular sport in this country

The net result of this new mission may well mean that decisions on the future independence of India will be framed in New Delhi rather than in London. After three years in his post as Viceroy, Lord Wavell is making progress in his efforts to bring about a settlement of the Indian problem. Last summer Wavell spent two months in London during which he finally forced a hearing from the British government. Now Britain goes to him.

Born in 1883, Archibald Percival Wavell stems from a long line of soldiers. As a major in World War I he was severely wounded and lost his left eye. In 1917 he became well known in desert warfare against the Turks. This experience was turned to good account in World War II when General Wavell defeated the Italian armies in North Africa in a daring campaign which brought him fame.

In 1942 Wavell was made commander of the British Army in India when that country was faced with Japanese invasion. As a tribute to his great administrative strength and his ability to get along with all kinds of people, Wavell was made Viceroy in 1943. He has impressed the Indian leaders by his integrity and the way he sticks to his promises. Wavell may achieve lasting greatness in India.

## SMILES



KEYCHAM IN SAT. EVE. POST

A 10-year old boy rushed into the shop. "Dad's being chased by a bull," he cried.

"What can I do about it?" asked the shopkeeper.

"Put a new roll of film in my camera."

★ ★ ★

"Well, Doc, you sure kept your promise when you said you'd have me walking again in a month."

"Well, well, that's fine."

"Yes, I had to sell my car when I got your bill."

★ ★ ★

Then there was the bitter golf match between two Scots under a broiling sun, in which one of them had a stroke—and the other made him count it.

★ ★ ★

Said the bumptious young man: "I'm a very good thought-reader; I can tell exactly what any one is thinking."

Said the other: "In that case, I beg your pardon."

★ ★ ★

"It must be rather difficult to eat soup with a beard," said a young lady, who was seated near a bearded gentleman at a banquet.

"Yes," he agreed. "I find it quite a strain."

★ ★ ★

"Too bad about the disappearance of Professor Smith. He was a profound thinker."

"Yes, he was always thinking, no matter where he was. The last time I saw him he was in swimming and he suddenly called out, 'I'm thinking!'"

"You dunce! Professor Smith spoke with a lisp."

★ ★ ★

"I'll take pork chops, and make them lean."

"Yes, sir. To the right, or to the left?"



# Crisis Spreads in India

(Concluded from page 1)

India has always suffered terribly from lack of food because her population grows faster than her capacity to produce what she needs. During the war, lack of shipping made the situation worse by cutting off supplies from the outside. As a result, an estimated 3 million people died in the famine of 1943.

Now, an even worse famine is in the offing. Rains did not come when they were expected, and drought destroyed the harvest, both in the south of India and in the northwest. Elsewhere, crops of rice and millet were ruined by severe cyclones. With the rest of the world short of food because of wartime devastation, India stands little chance of getting help from abroad and may, in the months ahead, suffer the worst famine in her history.

## Britain Accused

This will undoubtedly make the political situation worse. Although the Indians cannot blame the British for droughts and cyclones, they do place part of the responsibility for their food shortages on British policies. The Indians accuse the British of relying on Indian supplies to feed their troops instead of bringing in their own food rations. This, they say, has left India worse off than she would have been in the normal course of events.

Another factor which promises to bring unrest to India in the coming months is unemployment. Now that the war is over, the war industries set up in the larger Indian cities are closing down, leaving many without jobs. Newly discharged native soldiers are swelling the ranks of the unemployed. As the British well know, the unemployed are easy prey to discontent and can be expected to add to India's political unrest.

The British stakes are high in the present Indian crisis. Fighting to hold her position as one of the Big Three, England needs to keep her influence strong all over the world. In the Middle East, she is already seriously challenged, first by the growing strength of the Arab League, and second by Russia's determination to share in the development of this important area. With India in open revolt, Britain would be in danger of losing all her power in Asia, and with it her last hope of remaining a great world power.

Thus, the British are just as anxious

to see India's problems settled quickly and peacefully as the Indians are. What they would like to do is to give the Indians control of their own government but keep them in the British Commonwealth as a dominion like Canada or Australia. India would then be self-governing, but she would remain loyal to the British king, and she would maintain close relations with England in trade and commerce.

However, Britain says that before

completely free of all British ties.

Above the whole controversy hangs a cloud of fear, suspicion, and hatred, which makes both sides distrust each other. It is this bitter atmosphere which has poisoned British-Indian relations in the past and which even now threatens to bring violent revolution to India. Only in the last few months have there been signs that the top leaders of Britain and India might settle some of their major differences to prevent such a tragedy. The gulf which separates them, however, is still wide and deep.

Regardless of what is done about this political problem, there will still

than 1 out of 8 of the people can read or write, and this widespread ignorance makes change and reform difficult.

2. India's wretched health conditions must be improved. Malaria, dysentery, cholera, pneumonia, and other diseases constantly weaken the Indian peasant and destroy his ambition.

3. Agricultural methods must be modernized. India has the second largest farm area on earth, and even with average methods she could double her present crops.

4. Industry must be greatly increased and modernized. Too much of the present manufacturing is done in homes by ancient and inefficient hand methods.

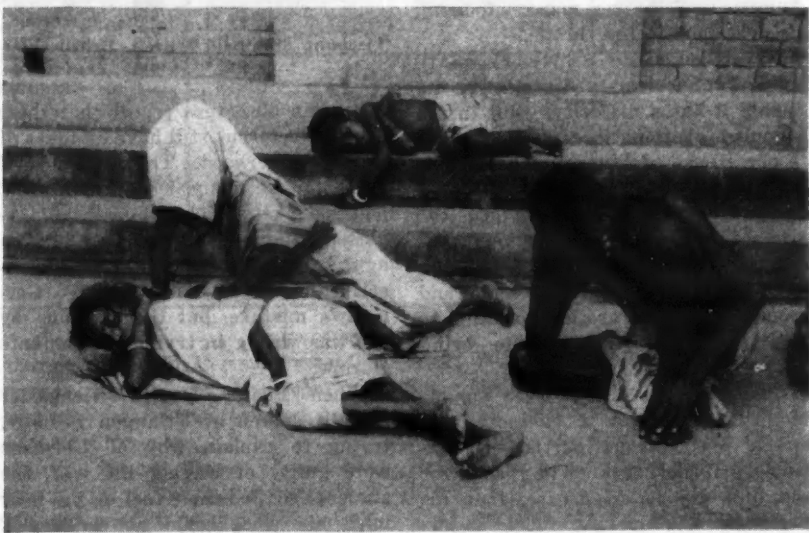
When it comes to making industrial improvements, India suffers from certain handicaps. She has no oil, and her coal production is inadequate. On the other hand, she does have important resources of iron, manganese, and tungsten, and she has abundant water power which she can use to make up for fuel shortages. With proper management India could become an important industrial nation, making manufactured products to sell abroad in exchange for food.

Can all these enormous problems be solved? Perhaps so, in time. But we must not expect too much, for most students of conditions in India doubt that any group of leaders will have the wisdom and the patience to accomplish major changes in the near future. It will require the highest degree of skill and leadership to achieve a good standard of living in a nation which has such a tremendous and backward population.

President Truman has proclaimed March as Red Cross Month. During this period, the Red Cross will stage a drive for \$100,000,000 to carry on its work. If this amount seems large, it must be remembered that the Red Cross has a tremendous task in relieving the suffering of wartorn lands, and in aiding the armed forces.

## Pronunciations

Baluchistan—buh-loo-chi-stahn'  
Brahmaputra—brah-muh-poo'truh  
Gandhi—gahn'dee  
Ganges—Gan'jeez  
Himalayas—hih-mahl'liuhs (or) him-ah-lay'uhz  
Indus—in'duhs  
Ali Jinnah—ah'lee jin'uh  
Mysore—my-sor'  
Nehru—neh'roo  
Nepal—neh-pol'  
Rajputana—rahj-poo-tah'na  
Auguste de Schrijver—oh-goost' du-skray-vur, u's as in duration



Three million people of India starved to death in 1943, and more than that number may suffer the same fate this year

India can be freed under such a plan, the various opposing groups must first settle their differences. They must agree on a new constitution for India to be drawn up when the elections now in progress are ended. Britain refuses to withdraw from India so long as there is danger that the country will be torn by a civil war as soon as she leaves.

That, of course, is the main stumbling block which has prevented an agreement on Indian independence all along. The Moslems have consistently refused to agree to any plan which will not permit them to withdraw and set up their own nation. The Hindus have been just as determined that they will accept no plan which might permit India to be weakened by being split into several separate states or nations.

In addition, many Indians, both Hindus and Moslems, say they do not want their country to be a British dominion. Unlike the Canadians and Australians, they are in no way related to the English and they want to be

remain the long-range question of how to raise India's unbelievably low standard of living. John Fisher, writing in *Harper's*, gives a vivid picture of the extreme poverty of this unhappy land:

"More than half of all the people in India are always underfed. The Indian peasant is one of the worst farmers in the world. His methods are incredibly primitive; his soil has been drained of its fertility for centuries; his yields are far below the world average.

"His plow is a crooked stick dragged by a water buffalo; his home is a one-room mud hut, which is quite likely to wash away every rainy season. Normally he is up to his ears in debt, on which he may pay up to 100 per cent interest, and he could not afford better equipment if he wanted it. He seldom does; the old ways seem best, just because they are old and probably sacred."

Four steps need desperately to be taken to improve this situation:

1. Indians need education. No more



India is making slow but steady industrial progress—



—but most Indians barely eke out an existence by primitive farming



# India, the Vast Subcontinent in Southern Asia

*Customs, Politics, Religions Differ in This Land of 400 Million People*

INDIA'S V-shaped peninsula, jutting southward from the Asiatic mainland to the Indian Ocean, is so large that it is often called a subcontinent. Occupying 1,808,000 square miles of land, India is about the size of the United States east of the Mississippi. It is Britain's most valuable possession.

India is divided into three distinct geographical regions. In the north is the rugged region of the Himalayas, the world's highest mountains. Mountain snows feed three great rivers—the Indus, the Ganges, and the Brahmaputra—which pour into the wide north-central plain. To the south the plain gives way to a dry plateau which occupies most of the lower Indian peninsula.

India has two major political regions. British India, containing about half the land area and three-fourths of the people, is under direct British control. The rest of the country is divided into native states, ruled by princes who are loyal to the British.

Of the few large Indian cities, the commercial metropolis of Calcutta, with more than 2,000,000 people, and the cotton-mill center of Bombay, with nearly 1,500,000 people, are largest. New Delhi, a well-planned, modern city, is the capital.

## Climate Varies

The climate of all India—which has been called "too hot and too cold; too wet and too dry"—is influenced by the monsoons, winds which frequently bring rain in some seasons and dry weather in others.

India, with 400 million people, has one-fifth of the world's population. It is often portrayed as a land with many different races, languages, and customs. To some extent this is true, but many Indians have common ties. Three-fourths of them speak one of two languages—Hindustani or Bengali. Two-thirds are Hindu in religion. About one-fourth are Moslems.

Every Hindu is born into a caste, or class, and must stay in the occupational group for life. Below the castes are 50 million "untouchables." This system is a drawback to progress, and many Indian leaders are trying to abolish it.

Because the Hindu and the Moslem religions are quite different, there are sometimes violent conflicts between the groups. On the other hand, a great many of them live in the same cities or regions for long periods of time without having any serious trouble. The leaders of both groups are in conflict far more often than are the ordinary people.

Most Indians live in the 700,000 small villages. Their homes are thatched-roofed, mud-walled huts with no windows and little furniture. A typical village is built around a sacred tree or temple.

The Indian people, for the most part, are desperately poor. Many face starvation and disease continually, and the average length of life is only 27 years. One child out of four now goes to grade school, and about one person out of eight can read and write.

Nearly 300 million Indians work the total farming region which forms an area about one-fifth larger than our own. Because of primitive methods,



The mixture of British India and native Indian states creates a political hodgepodge

however, harvests are small. The most important crops are tea, rice, coffee, wheat, sugar, cotton, and jute. Peanuts, sesame, wool, lac (for shellac), and cattle also are produced.

The war hastened the growth of industries in India. Home handicrafts and the processing of farm products are still important industries, but India also has some large war plants. She has the largest steel mill in the British Empire and large shipyards. The making of cotton textiles is a leading industry.

India's mineral deposits are surpassed only by those of the United States and Russia, and include large quantities of iron, chrome, lead, salt, tungsten, and gold. She has some coal, but too little to meet her needs. She has practically no oil, but her river

systems could be made to produce an abundance of electric power.

Cotton and cotton goods, tea, jute, forest products, wool, and hides are the main things which India sells to other nations. In return she buys motor vehicles, food, metals, and oil. Most of her foreign trade is with the British Empire and the United States.

India has been the home of civilized peoples for more than 5,000 years. The Dravidians—the dark-skinned early inhabitants of the vast subcontinent—built cities and monuments about the time the Egyptians were constructing their pyramids. Later the Aryans, a lighter-skinned people from the Middle East, came and conquered the Dravidians.

The Aryans, or Hindustani as they were called in India, became the

founders of the Hindu race and religion, although as time went on a great mixture of races took place in India. New invasions brought Huns, Arabs, and Mongols to the Indian peninsula, and each invasion put its stamp on the culture and civilization of this land.

After the Crusades, Europeans looked eagerly toward India, the land of spices and silks. The Portuguese were the first to become established in India. They dominated the Indian trade until 1600. Then Dutch, French, and British East India companies were established. Their combined strength forced the Portuguese out. The British, in turn, forced out the Dutch and French, and by 1800 were in control of India. In 1857 India became part of the British Empire.



# Military Expedition Probes Canadian Northland

*Snowmobiles Are Used to Overcome Hazards of Arctic in 3,100-mile Trek*

"WESTWARD HO!" was once the call of pioneers as they pushed to and across America. It is all over now. East has met West. The new frontiers, and the last ones (on the earth), are North and South, the two vast polar regions where man has ventured only seldom and with great caution.

In Canada, military pioneers have started what may herald a great trek into the Arctic regions. Traveling in snowmobiles over the frozen areas of the American northland, a group of 47 men, including five United States observers, is trying to find how military forces can conquer the hazards of the Arctic Circle. If another war occurs, the Arctic air routes are certain to play a vital role.

Called "Exercise Musk Ox," the expedition which left the airbase of Churchill on Hudson Bay three weeks ago is a far cry from the exploration trips by bygone days. Instead of pushing through the Arctic winter with dog sleds and snowshoes, this group is traveling in the cabins of Penguins, the high-powered snowmobiles which were originally designed for the invasion of Norway. These machines with their wide rubber treads, can travel 30 miles an hour over snow and ice.

At the present time, the adventurers are heading north to the ice-bound islands of Canada's "roof," just inside the Arctic Circle. After passing Cambridge Bay, they will swing west and then south through Coppermine, Norman Wells, and Dawson Creek,



Canadians are making most thorough exploration of Arctic region that has yet been made

ending at Edmonton on May 5. During the whole trip, which will cover 3,100 miles and take 81 days, Canadian Air Force planes will make frequent trips to drop supplies.

Exercise Musk Ox is a military mission of the Canadian Army, but it is seeking more than military objectives. The troops are specialists, and no weapons larger than rifles are carried. They will test clothing, food, and equipment in the Arctic weather. Where these army men can go, civilization may be able to follow.

But in spite of all that science can do, life will not be easy for the men of Exercise Musk Ox. They are traveling through many uncharted areas, and even in areas which have been

charted, the information is not always correct.

This month, the explorers are traveling under the eerie light of the Arctic moon, because they are at the border of the Arctic Circle where the sun appears on the southern horizon only a couple of hours a day. As they swing south in the spring, they will have to guide their Penguins through mud and swamp-land. Although there are two bunks in each Penguin, the men will frequently spend their nights in sleeping bags and nylon tents or in Eskimo-type igloos.

Besides learning how to live and travel in the cold, the Canadians will study land navigation in an area where compasses are useless. In the

far north are the great mineral fields which attract compass needles. These make up the magnetic North Pole, and those who travel there find that compasses point only to the ground below them. Exercise Musk Ox must depend on the stars or the radar equipment which is in each Penguin.

Musk Ox will certainly teach Canada how best to tackle the job of bringing riches from her Arctic regions. Already the northland is yielding gold, silver, radium, uranium, copper, lead, oil, and mercury. But it has been only haphazardly explored, and the value of minerals there is unknown. Zinc, iron, platinum, chromite, tin, coal, manganese, and other metals are also known to be under the frozen tundra of the north.

Priests and ministers who carry on missionary work among the Eskimos hope to use Penguins as vehicles for all-weather travel. At present airplanes are the only fast transportation in the northland, but they are often grounded. Water travel can be used only a few months in the year. The leader of Exercise Musk Ox says that in 10 years he will be willing to take anyone to the North Pole in a Penguin for \$1,000.

Knowledge gained by the Canadians may help set up weather stations in the far north. The United States has plans for an "Arctops" project to build year-round observation posts in Greenland and the northern islands, so that weather trends may be observed at their "birth."

## Suggested Study Guide for Students

### Price Control

1. Under the new wage-price program, what is the maximum amount that wages are permitted to increase?
2. How high are prices allowed to rise under this plan?
3. Who are the leading men in charge of this program. Briefly describe the role of each.
4. What is the duty of the National Wage Stabilization Board?
5. Why will this program lead to a moderate increase in the cost of living?
6. What is the main argument in favor of lifting all price controls without delay?
7. How does Chester Bowles reply to this position?
8. Briefly describe how inflation inevitably leads to depression.

### Discussion

1. If you had your way, would you extend the lifetime of the OPA for another year after June 30, or would you drop price controls? Explain your position.
2. What do you think of the government's new wage-price program? Do you or do you not believe that it was necessary to permit price increases to the extent that they will be under this program?

### References

"Wages and Prices: The Basic Issue," by Alvin Hansen, *New York Times Magazine*, January 6. Mr. Hansen argues for rising wages and stable prices as the healthiest long-range trend. He tells why he thinks it is possible to increase wages without boosting prices.

"Price Control Winning Out," *Business Week*, January 19. A discussion of the immediate problems facing OPA.

"What Price Inflation?" by Chester Bowles, *Vital Speeches*, January 1. Mr. Bowles tells the National Association of Manufacturers why price control is beneficial to them as well as to the nation.

### India

1. Why are the present elections in India so important?
2. Why is the food shortage in that country even worse than it is usually, and how does this factor enter into the political situation?
3. What does the Congress Party want for India?
4. What does the Moslem League want, and why?
5. How would Britain like to settle the Indian problem?
6. What are the main obstacles in the way of the British plan?
7. Tell of four big social and economic changes which must be made in that land before living conditions can improve very much.

### Discussion

1. If you were the British Prime Minister, what do you think would be

your attitude toward the Indian independence movement? In thinking about this question, remember how much more important India is to Britain from the economic standpoint than any colonial possession that we have is to our country.

2. If you are inclined to feel that Britain should grant immediate and complete independence to India, would you still favor such a course if you positively knew that there would be a civil war among the Hindus and Moslems after the British troops left the country? In other words, do you or do you not feel that the people of India have a right to solve their problems, even by means of force if necessary, just as other nations have the right to solve theirs?

### References

"India: Truths and Half-Truths," by William Fisher, *Asia and the Americas*, September 1945. An American correspondent criticizes both the British and Indian leaders.

"India's Insoluble Hunger," by John Fischer, *Harper's*, April 1945. An excellent discussion of India's tremendous problem of survival.

"Soldier of Peace," *Time*, July 16, 1945. A lengthy article about Viscount Wavell and the problems he has been trying to solve in India.

"Twentieth Century India," by Kate Mitchell and Kumar Goshal. A pamphlet published by the Institute of Pacific Relations in New York City. It costs 40 cents and contains background material especially suitable for high school students.

"An Introduction to India," by Moraes and Stimson. This book is published by the Oxford University Press, New York City, \$2. It is written by an Englishman and an Indian, and is one of the best books on the subject.

### Miscellaneous

1. What are the two views with respect to Russia's alleged efforts to obtain information about the atomic bomb by spying methods?
2. Briefly describe the conflicting points of view of these three Indian leaders: Gandhi, Nehru, and Jinnah.
3. How did Wavell distinguish himself in a military way during the recent war?
4. What is the so-called super calculator?
5. What was the nature of the recent air agreement reached between England and the United States?
6. What suggestion was recently made by Eddie Rickenbacker with respect to the South Pole, and why do some scientists oppose his idea?
7. What is Exercise Musk Ox? What are its military objectives? How will it contribute to peacetime activities?
8. As a result of recent elections in Belgium, is it certain that King Leopold will return to his throne?
9. Where and when will the first postwar Olympic Games be held?